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Celebrate Military Appreciation and Jewish Culture with the North Carolina Museum of History



For images, follow this [Dropbox link](#). Captions and credits are listed after program descriptions.

April 29, 2021 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — We all know to celebrate Mother’s Day and Memorial Day in May, but the month also marks Jewish American Heritage Month, National Military Appreciation Month, and National Preservation Month! And the museum has something to recognize each of those observances, as well as something for everyone—because this is turning out to be an exciting few weeks, with activities that include a new military exhibit, a film festival, a Jewish cuisine program, and a look at who helped build the White House. As we have been for several months, the museum is open to the public with [special hours and protocols](#). Admission is free, and [the Museum Shop](#) is open, as well!

Top Five Things to Do This Month

- Hear a Cherokee author [read an excerpt from her new children’s book](#).
- Tune in to the [Longleaf Film Festival](#) of North Carolina–focused independent films.
- Celebrate Jewish culture through an evening of [delicious Jewish cuisine](#) and its relation to the South.
- Join a [special edition of History and Highballs](#) to discover the history of Edgewater, a historic home in the Hudson River valley.
- For kids, listen to stories about a [jazz giant](#) and [freedom gardens during WWII](#).

Read on for a current listing of May events, but follow us on social media for updates and additional programs. You can also stay up to date on all events and exhibits at the museum website: ncmuseumofhistory.org. Programs are **FREE** unless otherwise noted; advance registration, at NCMOH-programs.com, is generally required to receive a confirmation email with information about joining online presentations.

Did you miss a previous program? Many of the museum's programs are being archived so you can enjoy them any time—access them on the museum [YouTube](#) channel.

The museum will be open for Memorial Day weekend, including Monday, May 31. While we're open, be sure to visit and create memories in [*Beach Music: Making Waves in the Carolinas*](#), take a stroll through the photography exhibit [*Are We There Yet? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland, 1930s–1970s*](#), or recall your whereabouts in the immersive [*Answering the Call: Experiences of North Carolina's Military Veterans, 1989–1945*](#). The Museum Shop currently opens at 11 a.m., with exhibit-related items from exhibits, many programs—and more!

*Events with asterisks note family and kid-friendly programming.

[**Author Talk with Traci Sorell: We Are Still Here!*](#)

Saturday, May 1, 4 p.m. via Demio

Kids, families, educators: Join us virtually to hear Traci Sorell, Cherokee Nation, read an excerpt from her new book *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*. This companion book to her award-winning picture book *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* presents an intertribal look at historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life through the eyes of 12 American Indian students. The children's book author will also share why learning about these ongoing issues is important for everyone—both Native and non-Native—especially here, in North Carolina, the state with the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River. Sorell was also a speaker at the Museum of History's 2020 [*American Indian Heritage Celebration*](#). Copies of *We Are Still Here!* are available at the Museum Shop—in person or online, where arrangements can be made for postal delivery or curbside pickup.

[**Tar Heel Tales: Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane*](#)

Wednesday, May 5, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 5 and up; parents are encouraged to participate with their children during the program

Young John Coltrane heard preachers praying, music on the radio, the bustling of his family's household . . . and it all shaped the music he wrote and played as a grownup! Hum along to some of his music (played by him) as we read this award-winning book by North Carolina author Carol Boston Weatherford and illustrator Sean Qualls. Copies of this book are available at the

Museum Shop—in person or online, where arrangements can be made for postal delivery or curbside pickup.

History at High Noon: *Variety Vacationland: Behind the Scenes*

Wednesday, May 12, noon–1 p.m.

Meet Katie Edwards, curator of popular culture at the Museum of History, and learn about our new photography exhibit, *Are We There Yet? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland, 1930s–1970s*, which looks back at an era when tourism boomed thanks largely to a state-run marketing effort called “Variety Vacationland.” The Variety Vacationland campaign was successful in creating a unified tourism industry in North Carolina from the 1930s to the 1970s by depicting our state as both modern and progressive, but with strong ties to its past. However, true to the Jim Crow era, most sites promoted were marketed (and accessible) to White tourists only; people of color were neglected and even exploited at times, an attitude this exhibit attempts to point out where possible.

*History Corner: Toys and Games!

Wednesday, May 12, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 6–9; parents are invited to participate with their children during the program

Jump, hop, and skip your way through history with the toys and games North Carolinians played with in the 1940s. During the program, you’ll also get tips on making a toy of your own from stuff you have at home!

Building the White House: Irish and Scottish Connections

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m. via Zoom

If you look beneath the paint that gives the walls of the White House its name and focus your attention on their placement, marks, scars, carvings, and shapes, you might think about the hundreds of individuals who transformed raw outcroppings of Virginia stone into building blocks that resulted in a monumental home for America’s presidents. Stewart D. McLaurin, president, White House Historical Association, will uncover some of the stories behind construction of the building, including contributions of immigrants—detailed in *James Hoban: Designer and Builder of the White House* and *A White House of Stone: Building America's First Ideal in Architecture* (both available in the Museum Shop)—and enslaved workers, a key focus of recent research.

History and Highballs: Meshugganah

Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Known as the “head mensch”—a person who can be relied on to act with honor and integrity and

who is kind and considerate, with self-restraint and humility—at Meshugganah, Rob Clement will use three dishes to look into Jewish cuisine: how it got here, it's place in the American South today, and where it may be going in the future. And, if you're wondering what the term *meshugganah* means, he says it's a Yiddish word for someone that is a little crazy; he adds that anyone who knows him understands why he chose it to name his Charlotte deli. Clement's brother, Brad, a bartender/mixologist the Spotted Cat Music Club in New Orleans, will provide tonight's cocktail recipe.

Longleaf Film Festival 2021

Friday, May 14–Saturday, May 15

Longleaf 2021 is year seven for this annual program that celebrates the state's long history in the art, craft, and business of filmmaking. For the second year, due to COVID-19 precautions, we have created a **series of online events**—including two virtual educational sessions—that honor our filmmakers and film fans. Like last year, those online events will include a virtual announcement of our Official Selection films, a live-streamed program that shares the announcement of our award winners, and the main event: our second-year-in-a-row virtual viewing event, [One Last \(Virtual\) Viewing Event](#), which, thanks to the generosity of most of our Official Selection filmmakers, will provide free access to many of this year's films on our original festival days. *Follow Longleaf on social media for updates!* Festival T-shirts are available, while they last, through the Museum Shop—in person or online.

All Longleaf events and programs are FREE, but registration is required. Sponsors for Longleaf Film Festival 2021 include media sponsor CBS17 News, and WUNC North Carolina Public Radio.

History at High Noon: The Colonial Inn, Hillsborough

Wednesday, May 19, noon–1 p.m.

Since 1838 this historic inn has graced downtown Hillsborough, providing facilities for travelers during most of that time—including the years that North Carolina promoted Variety Vacationland sites to tourists. Renovated in the past year, the inn is now a 28-room boutique hotel, with indoor and outdoor event space and other amenities for modern-day travelers.

*History Hunters: Eating for Victory—WWII, Tomatoes, and Wacky Cake

Wednesday, May 19, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 10–13

This month marks the 76th anniversary of VE-day, or Victory in Europe day, when Nazi forces surrendered to Allied Forces to end fighting in Europe. Join us virtually for a (sometimes) tasty tour through World War II North Carolina as seen through what folks grew and ate!

Answering the Call: World War II Lecture Series—"Nazi" POWs in the Tar Heel State, 1942–1946

Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m. via Zoom

More than 10,000 German prisoners of war were interned in 18 camps across North Carolina during World War II, working at military bases, on local farms, and in agricultural industries—especially pulpwood harvesting—when civilian labor was not available. Yet, apart from the guards, civilian workers, and FBI and local police who tracked escapees, most people were—and remain—unaware of their presence. Using interviews with former prisoners and their guards, Red Cross and US military reports, German-language camp newspapers, local print media, letters, memoirs, and other archival sources, Robert D. Billinger, author and professor emeritus from Wingate University, has chronicled the German POW experience in North Carolina during WWII to reveal that both the POWs and the citizens of North Carolina came to realize that enemies are human, uniforms conceal diversity, and wartime enemies can become life-long friends.

The exhibit, *Answering the Call*, was made possible by funding from the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation and the North Carolina Museum of History Associates; by a grant from the US Department of Defense, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of World War II with a series of programs and events focused on honoring WWII veterans and helping the American people gain a better understanding of their military's history; and by support from the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, with special thanks to the State Archives of North Carolina and the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. The Museum of History is also pleased to have CBS17 News as sole media sponsor for this exhibit.

History and Highballs: Edgewater

Thursday, May. 20, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Grant S. Quertermous, curator and director of collections at the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, leads this discussion of Edgewater, a historic early-19th-century home located in the Hudson River valley of New York, that was purchased by Robert and Susan Gaston Donaldson of Fayetteville, in 1852; their descendants owned the estate until 1902. In Fayetteville, Donaldson, a recent architecture graduate at the University of North Carolina, constructed the Lafayette Hotel in preparation for the 1825 visit of General Lafayette to the town named after him. After purchasing Edgewater, Donaldson added a chapel, a library, and other buildings with architect Alexander Jackson Davis, who had worked with Donaldson on projects at UNC and on the state Capitol in Raleigh. During their half century, the Donaldsons also hosted artists of the Hudson River School.

Coffee with a Curator: "Glory" Hancock: New York Socialite to WWI Nurse

Tuesday, May 25, 10–10:30 a.m. via Zoom

Charles R. Knight, curator of military history at the Museum of History, will examine the colorful life of Madelon "Glory" Hancock, of Asheville. Hancock was the first North Carolinian to volunteer for service in World War I, and her contributions as a nurse on the battlefields of Europe entitled her to be named the most decorated woman of the war.

*Memorial Day
Monday, May 31

The museum is open for the weekend, including Monday! Visit, and share stories from your family's past while viewing "*You Have to Start a Thing*"—a look at voting rights, historically for women but for current citizens, as well—or recall vacation memories as you tour *Are We There Yet? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland, 1930s–1970s*. The Museum Shop is open, as well, with exhibit-related items from both exhibits, as well as special gifts to celebrate the holiday.

IMAGES: [Dropbox link](#), caption and credits

Image – May programs press release logo
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Image – Author Talk with Traci Sorell
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History, author Traci Sorell, and illustrator Frané Lessac

Image – Tar Heel Tales: John Coltrane
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History, author Carole Boston Weatherford, and illustrator Sean Qualls

Image – History and Highballs: Meshugganah
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History and Meshugganah Deli and Bakery, Charlotte

Image – Longleaf Film Festival 2021
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History and Longleaf Film Festival

Image – History Hunters: Eating for Victory
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Image – History and Highballs: Edgewater
Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History and Classical American Homes Preservation Trust

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Before the COVID public closure, more than 465,000 people visited the museum annually to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit [DNCR.nc.gov](https://dnCR.nc.gov).

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